

# Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

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## INCREASED URGENCY

FUKUSHIMA is the largest accidental ejection of radioactivity into the **Pacific Ocean** in world history. The earthquake and tsunami resulting in nuclear disaster in JAPAN was a jolt **in April 2011. Three of the four nuclear reactors at FUKUSHIMA melted in 2011, and the fourth reactor remains on the verge.**

According to **WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE**, highly radioactive releases were directly discharged. Within just a couple of months due to atmospheric fallout, radioactive contamination reached 400 miles out from the coastline of JAPAN, and was up to 10,000 times higher than background, thus **contaminating seafood.**

The government of JAPAN instituted a "cleanup" policy of spreading the radioactive clutter throughout the country and even burning it, in order to "share the burden". But radioactivity must be isolated, rather than "shared" or re-released into the environment because radiation causes disease. Radiation dose estimates and protection standards do not fully account for the most vulnerable populations, leaving women, children, and the immune-compromised to disproportionately suffer greater risk. Radiation doses to the population downwind, downstream, and up the food chain from FUKUSHIMA are likely to have been significantly underestimated in regards to the negative public health consequences for current and future generations.

World citizens need safety upgrades, such as backup power, make-up water, and monitors on all irradiated fuel rod pools until they can be emptied into hardened on-site storage. The efforts at FUKUSHIMA may be too little, too late.

The U.S. quickly stopped any *emergency* monitoring of contamination levels on US soil, from the FUKUSHIMA disaster. Whatever little US monitoring that may have been regularly scheduled ever since then has been woefully inadequate.

The nuclear watchdog for JAPAN is THE NUCLEAR REGULATION AUTHORITY, and Akio Yamamoto serves as its outside expert. He is a Professor of Nuclear Engineering at **Nagoya University**. He claims the situation at FUKUSHIMA is now experiencing *alarming overwhelm*.

The exposed pool sits several stories high, located outside of any radiological containment structure, at risk of accidents or worse. It is the one containing plutonium. If it melts down from overheating and catching on fire, the world catastrophe may be 85 times worse than Chernobyl and far worse than Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

There is alarm regarding the possibility of not having enough fresh water to continue to cool the storage pool for the irradiated fuel rods of the fourth reactor pool. There are over 1,000 storage tanks already full with an overcrowded storage problem becoming more and more alarming.

Cooling the damaged reactors is so pressing that TEPCO cannot deal with the barrier wall that has failed. **TEPCO, The Toyko Electric Power Company**, has compounded fears. Groundwater beneath the nuclear plant has a **sharp increase in radioactivity flowing into the sea.** TEPCO is **UNABLE to stop the flow of the contaminated water. There is no end in sight regarding the leakage into the Pacific Ocean.**

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August 13, 2013

Page 2

Apparently an underground conduit maze suffered a large leak in the conduit near Reactor Two when the reactors melted in April 2011 and 1.6 billion becquerels per liter of radioactive cesium 137 was measured at that time. The maze of pipes and ducts were sealed shut with concrete to prevent leaks, but highly contaminated water may have seeped through conduit cracks into a layer of gravel, and from there into the soil and groundwater. According to Mr. Kinjo of TEPCO chemicals were injected into the soil to harden it and an underground barrier was built along the shoreline but the barrier has failed. The manmade harbor's barrier wall to the sea cannot contain the flow of highly radioactive contaminated water any more.

**Four hundred tons of HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE water a day is leaking into the PACIFIC OCEAN.** The contaminated water contains **cesium**, **tritium**, and **strontium**, which is especially perilous if it gets into the food chain. Strontium is absorbed into the bones and causes cancer and other health problems.

About **50 billion becquerels of tritium are currently flowing into the Pacific Ocean daily** and the overflow into the sea may have began in May 2013 or even as far back as December 2012. **Finally the government of JAPAN claims it will play a bigger role in the FUKUSHIMA overwhelm crisis.**

**The situation is an URGENT AND IMPORTANT WORLD CRISIS.** *The healing of the planet starts with the elimination of the bombs of destruction and the end of nuclear power.*

(Source: July 24, DAILY TIDINGS "Is the Mining of Uranium Increasing" by Paul Raffman, NEW BEDFORD, MASS; Lily Grimes reports <http://news.yahoo.com/video/japan-government-clean-fukushima-earthtalk@emagazine.com/trial>; August 7, NEW YORK TIMES, "Leaks Into Pacific Persist at Japan Nuclear Plant" by Martin Fackler; [www.beyondnuclear.org](http://www.beyondnuclear.org), and [www.nrdc.org/nuclear/files/uranium-mining-report.pdf](http://www.nrdc.org/nuclear/files/uranium-mining-report.pdf); NAS, [www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record\\_id=13266&page=123](http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=13266&page=123) )

#### Wheat Relief

JAPAN will continue to do its own testing of U.S. imports for GMO wheat, while agreeing to resume import of U.S. Northwest soft white wheat from IDAHO, OREGON, and WASHINGTON.

Consumers in ASIA and EUROPE avoid GMO foods. U.S. Consumers are showing increasing interest in also avoiding GMO foods.

(Source: July 31, MAIL TRIBUNE, "Japan decides to import U.S. wheat again" by Nigel Duara, The Associated Press.)

#### It's for the Market to Decide

The other day someone told me that I should make sure to put it into my newsletters that a GERMAN Newspaper had a full article showing how the **U.S. Military and MONSANTO** track anti-GMO proponents. He handed me this link <http://t.co/UwG7ymiAsX> where you can read the full article.

Many of the mothers of children attending some of the most elite and expensive schools in AMERICA won't allow their children to eat anything less than 100% organic. See [www.momsacrossamerica.com](http://www.momsacrossamerica.com). Are those proactive mothers being tracked by the **U.S. Military and Monsanto**.

Moms in fact wield great influence in the marketplace by telling the supermarket retailers to negotiate terms, demand labels, ban additives, and set GMO-free standards.

And it's not just the rich kids' Moms that won't allow their children to eat GMO's. ANGOLIA, MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE, NIGERIA, ZIMBABWE and SUDAN have all rejected food aid shipments on the grounds that they might contain GMO grains. AFRICAN Moms also want their children to be as safe as EUROPEANS.

(July 16, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Fad Food Nation" BOOKSHELF/ By Trevor Butterworth, something to Chew On, by Mike Gibney )

August 13, 2013

Page 3

### Rewarding Bad Behavior

Your book discussion group could read *LORDS OF THE HARVEST*, by *Daniel Charles*. The author describes MONSANTO's *Dr. Fraley* as disliking farming and being driven with ambition to build a biotech business EMPIRE. He is described as a boastful man who prefers fancy clothes, sports cars, and other perks of corporate life.

Let's take a look at how the LORDS and their hired promotion agencies portray themselves. Then let's look at the disparity between marketing profile and the unvarnished facts.

*Norman E. Borlaug*, the "*Father of the Green Revolution*" won the NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 1970. It had to do with more grain production for the global plantation. *More, more, more* set the theme to come. But is more better is the question.

By 1981 MONSANTO hired a molecular biologist, *Dr. Fraley*, helped finance the work of *Marc Van Montagu* at GHENT UNIVERSITY, and *Mary Chilton* at the WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY in *St. Louis*, MISSOURI. Monsanto's three favored teams announced their independent competition results at a conference in Miami, FLORIDA, in January, 1983: A soil microbe called **AGROBACTERIUM TUMEFACIENS** could inject its own DNA into plants, causing "**GALL DISEASE**", **A TUMOROUS GROWTH**.

The "**GALL DISEASE**" was supposedly disabled, but the **TUMOR-CAUSING AGROBACTERIUM TUMEFACIENS BACTERIUM used as a carrier to insert a foreign gene into a plant's DNA**. That's why humanly engineered crops that would never have existed in Nature are said to contain "**Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's)**", because they do.

In 1987 *Norman Borlaug* founded the WORLD FOOD PRIZE, an obsession with biotech. *Kenneth Quinn* is President of the foundation, and \$250,000 cash is awarded to yearly "winners". The foundation receives contribution monies from corporations. In 2008 MONSANTO pledged \$5 million.

How conspicuous that this year's \$250,000 is awarded back to MONSANTO'S *Executive Vice President* and *Chief Technology Officer*, *Robert Fraley*. And who shares the \$250,000 with MONSANTO. None other than SYNGENTA AG's core biotech team developer and employee, *Mary-Dell Chilton*, of course. By now you might be asking yourself if the prize is rigged, or what, because the third person who gets a cut of the \$250,000 cash is you guessed who. *Marc Van Montagu*, the founder of two biotech companies, PLANT GENETIC SYSTEMS and CROP DESIGN.

No wonder *Eric Holt-Gimenez*, *Executive Director* of **FOOD FIRST, a food policy research organization** in OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, implicates the prize promotions for showing favoritism toward industrial agriculture. **The prejudiced WORLD FOOD PRIZE foundation ignores the documented successes of other farming methods.**

Here's the shame of it all, the INTERNATIONAL SERVICE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF AGRI-BIOTECH APPLICATIONS is the biotech **promotion organization** that brags that 90-percent of GMO farmers are small farmers in developing countries. Those poor farmers don't know any better. They swallow the GMO propaganda hook, line, and sinker.

Meanwhile the ACQUISITION's pretense of GMO crops combating world hunger is a false and misleading marketing claim, as proved by the **UNITED NATIONS** and the **WORLD BANK**.

**The UNITED NATIONS and the WORLD BANK organized a study that concluded GMO crops would play an insignificant role in fighting world hunger.** Synonyms for the word "*insignificant*" include "*not worth mentioning*", "*unimportant*", "*irrelevant*", and "*trivial*".

(Source: June 20, NEW YORK TIMES, "*Monsanto Crop Genetics Team Wins Prize*", by *Andrew Pollack*)

August 13, 2013

Page 4

### Champions of the World

Who are the real "*Champions of the World*" who should receive the WORLD FOOD PRIZE. None other than the lowly worm. Red wigglers are efficient worms. They daily consume their own body weight in digesting organic materials that they excrete as worm castings. The result is called compost. And, of course, worms are vital to composting. Worms are heroes, *not* biocide technology.

The thing that makes soil healthy is composting, not toxic poisons. No poisonous biocides are necessary when the soil has been built up with compost. Compost is rich in beneficial microbial organisms and makes a great soil amendment. It is full of flourishing microbial life. The good bacteria and fungi suppress disease, retain nutrients, improve soil structure and act as pest repellents. Beneficial microorganisms out-compete harmful disease organisms so that plants cannot be attacked.

Healthy plants need a healthy soil teaming with life. Healthy plants have big white root systems with beneficial bacteria and fungi. Healthy plants yield healthy produce, with seeds you can save. That's the Cycle of Life mentioned in Genesis 1:29.

Above all, Earthworms are Mother Nature's hero in building a healthy soil habitat for billions of beneficial microscopic organisms. Worms consume and break down a wide range of organic green matter, shredded paper, vegetable wastes, and grape pomace from local wineries.

Healthy worms make healthy soil. Healthy plants grow well in healthy soil. Organic farmers use compost instead of treating nature as an enemy to war against. "Certified Organic" and "GMO-free" labeling means the agricultural practices that produced your food treated nature as a friend and were compatible with the natural laws of creation.

Values have to do with what's most important to you. What a novel idea to value worms more highly than greed. All that glitters is not gold. False values are like "fools' gold" the miner's discernment of copper pyrite. It's alluring and shiny, but it's not the real thing of worth. Neither are synthetic chemicals and transgenic seeds sustainable agriculture. It's a sham for acquisition of real estate for a global plantation under corporate OLIGARCHY commercial trading without national borders.

(Source: [www.facebook.com/TerritorialSeedCompany](http://www.facebook.com/TerritorialSeedCompany), [www.twitter.com/TerritorialSeed](http://www.twitter.com/TerritorialSeed).)

### Update on Global Melt

Mount Everest is not alone with its snow caps melting. The **NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES** study reports that the white peaks on MOUNT KILIMANJARO may disappear by the end of this decade if the present rate of global melt continues.

(Source: July-August 2013 VEG NEWS, "*The Snows of Kilimanjaro*")

### Ocean Acidification

The **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** is concerned that greenhouse gas emissions are causing so much increasing ocean acidity that it is a threat to marine eco-systems and the fisheries they support. NOAA has dispatched the RV *Fairweather* from Seattle, WASHINGTON for a month long cruise to collect algae, plankton, and water samples.

(Source: August 2, MAIL TRIBUNE, "*Federal vessel out to study acidification, oysters in Pacific*" by Thomas Moriarty )

### Look Who is Playing Soft Ball

The federal **U.S. COURT OF APPEALS** defeated a dozen U.S. states, two U.S. cities, and the environmental groups that sued the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** to strengthen the standards against air pollution. The lawsuit was originally filed in 2008 and President Obama had promised to strengthen standards, but when it didn't get done, the lawsuit had resumed. The feds decided to keep the old Bush-era standards.

August 13, 2013

Page 5

Meanwhile Gina McCarthy gave her first speech as new EPA leader. She claimed to a *Harvard Law School* audience that during President Obama's first four years the **EPA** updated a host of air pollution health standards. Didn't she know about the U.S. COURT OF APPEALS ruling, or was she doing a smoke screen. Meanwhile she emphasized "economic" growth because business innovations would provide jobs to deal with the worsening climate changes. What about healing the damages to the planet.

(Source: July 24, MAIL TRIBUNE, "*Federal Court Upholds Bush-era Smog Standard*", and July 31, DAILY TIDINGS "*New EPA Chief: Climate Controls will help economy*" by Dina Cappiello, the ASSOCIATED PRESS)

#### The "F" Word

The Keystone XL pipeline is just another example of planetary destruction for the profit of the export industry. **FRACKING has greenhouse gas consequences.** Open pit mining for tar sands oil to be shipped from the OREGON coast will pollute the future for our grandchildren. And what about sink holes showing up now and swallowing up. Is it cause and effect. It's a good thing to wonder.

The proposed pipeline will cross 379 rivers and streams, including the *Coquille, Coos, Klamath, Rogue, and Umpqua* rivers. It will cross 80-miles of national forest. It will travel 235 miles. It will fragment and hurt the habitat of many of the 29 federally endangered animals and plants. That's in addition to the 300 private properties that the *Jordan Cove Pacific Connector* would harm. It would reach the OREGON coast at Coos Bay, OREGON. It's for export to the global trade beast.

If you are an Oregonian, perhaps the *Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, and the National Park Service* need your input about the pipeline.

It gets worse. There is energy in the ice, in shallow layers beneath the sea floor or in permafrost layers near the North Pole. Man wants to insert a chemical cocktail into the permafrost to harvest Alaska's north slope of permafrost for export to KOREA, TAIWAN, and INDIA importers. All for the booming energy demand in Asia.

An estimated 700,000 trillion cubic feet of methane hydrate is in frozen clumps under the sea floor. And in 2014 CHINA will host an international conference of methane hydrate. JAPAN is going to harvest the methane hydrate deposits off its shores. The governor of JAPAN has sponsored drilling off the coast of *Honshu*, JAPAN's main island. The drilling rig bored nearly 2,000 feet below the sea floor and pumped *methane hydrate* gas to the surface. Does anyone wonder how that jives with the FUKUSHIMA nuclear disaster that is still occurring to the Pacific Ocean. Meanwhile INDIA is thinking about harvesting the INDIAN OCEAN.

**A drilling accident could break nearby fragile crystals, setting off a landslide sending massive amounts of methane bubbling up through the ocean to the surface, and into the atmosphere, giving off intense heat.** Methane is a potent greenhouse gas.

Has anyone stopped to consider that just like the human body has a lymphatic system under the skin, so also the body of the planet has a lymphatic system and if you mess with it, the tectonic plates may mess with you. If you break the waters of the earthly womb, Mother Earth will have pangs. Simplify your lives to be less addicted to energy dependence and remember who you are. The whole is made up of *all* of its parts and monkeying around with a living intelligent Universe may prove to be a monkey wrench in the works.

(Source: Summer 2013, KLAMATH SISKIYOU NEWS, "*Fast Facts About the Gas Pipeline*", [www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org), [www.rogueriverkeeper.org](http://www.rogueriverkeeper.org), and July 29, THE WALLSTREET JOURNAL "*Fracking Dreams of a New Ice Age*" by Ben Lefabure )

#### Wind Power

The top five states for wind production are CALIFORNIA, ILLINOIS, IOWA, OREGON, and TEXAS. Wind power produced in the U.S.A. can power more than 10 million homes. A one megawatt wind turbine can power 250 homes. (Source: May-June 2013 VEGNEWS)

### Lethal Creek Water

The amount of chlorine in Ashland, OREGON's "Ashland Creek" downstream from the town's Wastewater Treatment Plant, was **ten times too lethal a level of chlorine** according to the **OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE** and the **OREGON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**. The poisoned water murdered 625 fish. If the creek is unsafe for fish, think about it.

Maybe chemically treating water is outdated. Newer technologies such as purifying water with infrared light might be healthier for fish and people. Instead of toxins, what about enlightenment.

The OREGON State Department of Environmental Quality ordered Ashland, OREGON to test Ashland Creek for E. Coli since 500 gallons from the city's Water Treatment Plant entered the creek. The creek often has backwater spills that trigger E. Coli. Ashland city officials warn you to avoid contact with Ashland Creek water.

(Source: July 24, DAILY TIDINGS, "Chlorine Linked to June Fish Deaths" by Mark Freeman MAIL TRIBUNE, August 7, DAILY TIDINGS, "Ashland Creek Tested for E. Coli" by Mark Freeman)

### International Cities of Refuge Network

**Writers are facing serious persecution simply for exercising the fundamental right to free speech.** The *International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN)* is an association that formed in response to the assault on freedom of expression that so many writers face. It is an independent international organization, owned by its member cities. Helge Lund is the Executive Director of ICORN and it is based in Stavanger, NORWAY.

The association holds an annual general meeting that receives new applications. It has a waiting list because there are so many writers who need protection. Each *International City of Refuge* provides a persecuted writer with food, lodging, and help for two-years, giving the writer a chance to focus on writing, in a safe environment with good conditions for work and living.

The process can be complicated for a journalist to succeed in leaving his or her home country, and the transition to another part of the world can be daunting. That is why each of the approximately 40-cities works hard to take care of just one writer at a time.

If your city or town would like to offer a persecuted journalist or writer a temporary home and peaceful place, the number of *places of safety around the world* that are joining the network keeps growing. *Miami*, FLORIDA joined. So did *Mexico City*, MEXICO. Most of the 40 cities of refuge are in EUROPE, with NORWAY having the most member cities and SWEDEN has the next most.

Finding more cities of refuge in SWEDEN is one of the **SWEDISH ARTS COUNCIL** tasks. *Fredrik Elg* took the initiative with what an ARTS COUNCIL can do, such as provide economic support for translations, in order to help the writer quickly become part of SWEDEN's literary circuit. The ARTS COUNCIL also arranges events such as readings or debates

SWEDEN's third largest city, *Malmo*, is a city of refuge, located in southern SWEDEN. The small town of *Sigtuna* is another. It became the sixth Swedish municipality to join. *Sigtuna* has about 8,500 people and is a few miles north of *Stockholm*.

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"Facts do NOT cease to exist because they are ignored."—Aldous Huxley, writer 1894